

Franklin Gazette

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Visit: www.benfranklin2006.org

"Friendship cannot live with Ceremony, nor without Civility." Poor Richard, June, 1754.

Message From the President

By Roy E. Goodman

The Friends' September 15 and 16 tour of New York brought together an impressive array of artifacts, speakers, and venues in America's most exciting city. The tour began Friday afternoon, with a visit to the New York Historical Society. Nina Nazionale showed select printed and manuscript items to the Friends in the Library, followed by Debra Schmidt Bach's overview of Franklin artifacts, displayed in the truly beautiful Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture. The NYHS brochure produced for the 300th birthday depicts the artifacts on display there.

The exhibit, **Images of Benjamin Franklin: as seen by himself and others**, at the NYU Bobst Library, displays Frankliniana from the collection of the first president of our organization, Stuart Karu. Highlights of the show include the first edition of *Franklin's Autobiography*, several original *Poor Richard's Almanacks*, Franklin's copy of *Oedipus*, the first complete edition of his *Experiments on Electricity*, numerous prints and engravings that have never before been exhibited together, the first bust that Franklin sat for when he went to France to serve as American envoy, and some historical documents from Colonial America. Stuart very kindly made the trip from his home in Florida to serve as a guide and interpreter for this very special Franklin event.

Friends Drs. Mark and Jo Ann Skousen rounded out the evening with a lively presentation on Franklin, using material from Mark's recent volume, *The Completed Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin*, which they compiled and edited. A reception amid the NYU exhibit made us feel that Ben was among us—sipping the wine, nibbling the cheese & munching

on his beloved dried cranberries and nuts.

Early Saturday morning found the group heading by van to the John Jay Homestead in Katonah, Westchester County.

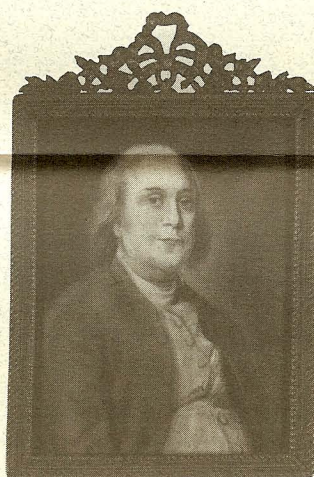
Clarissa Dayton brought John Jay and his family to life as we toured the house of this under-appreciated Founding Father. Janet Wedge, a member of the Homestead staff, spoke to us over lunch, illuminating much about the Paris years when the Jays and the Franklins were especially close. The extent that Jay and Franklin made use of diplomatic and social networks to seek French assistance during the American Revolution was fascinating.

Friend Dr. David Wang, spoke about Franklin's interest in Confucian philosophy at St. John's University's Institute of Asian Studies. Faculty and students were on hand to greet us and learn about a little known aspect of Franklin's moral and religious views.

The tour concluded at Noah Katz's lovely Manhattan residence. A relatively recent Friend of Franklin, Noah enthusiastically shared with the group his rich collection of Franklin imprints and art, as well as tales of how they were acquired.

Incidentally, both Stuart Karu and Noah Katz generously lent materials from their collections to *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, the traveling Tercentenary exhibit which is about to open in Houston.

In this the year of the Franklin 300th I urge everyone to visit the NYU Bobst Library exhibit, 70 Washington Square South. It closes in Dec. 2006, and is free and open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-Sat, or by appointment call 212-998-2648. Our Friends have given Ben and New York a most wonderful present this year. Thank you!



Miniature portrait of Benjamin Franklin by Margaretta P. Cope. Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

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Villanova Hosts Seminars on Franklin for Teachers

by Paul Pasles

"Benjamin Franklin and the Invention of America," a workshop for K-12 teachers, was held June 26-30 and July 3-8 at Villanova University. The event was co-funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities and The Pew Charitable Trusts, as part of the NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for Schoolteachers. Participants prepared by reading selections from Walter Isaacson's *Benjamin Franklin Reader*, Franklin's *Autobiography*, and other sources. They made excursions to historic sites in Philadelphia, among them: Independence Hall, the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company, Stenton (the home of Franklin's friend James Logan), the University of Pennsylvania, and the National Constitution Center. Lectures and seminars led by resident scholars and distinguished visitors offered perspectives on Franklin and women, Franklin and the press, and a host of other topics such as citizenship, education, and entrepreneurship. A particular highlight was the glass armonica performance by Cecilia Brauer of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Teacher Educators Explore Leadership Through Inquiry

by Dr. Robert Houston

Is the leadership style of our founding fathers relevant for leaders today? Yes, found 43 teacher educators from across the nation. In August 2006 the American Philosophical Society and the historic district of Philadelphia was the site for their leadership training. Rather than simply visiting the historic area, the group of college faculty set out to understand leadership through exploration of the leadership styles, actions, and deliberation of four of our nation's founding fathers—Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Participants had been nominated for the Leadership Academy of the Association of Teacher Educators as potential educational leaders. They meet twice a year, in different locations around the country, to broaden their understanding of leadership and its possibilities.

Roy Goodman guided the group's explorations and deliberations related to Benjamin Franklin. Through discussions with the group and a hands-on analysis of original documents, he helped illuminate some of the principles and practices that were employed by the founding fathers.

In Philadelphia, their quest centered on specific questions related to leadership styles, interaction among leaders, and how they overcame obstacles, reacted to criticism, and built a consensus. What did the group learn? They found our founding fathers varied widely in leadership styles, in their concept of the future of the nation, in their views of the status of states in the union, and in their age. Focusing especially on Franklin, they identified seven generalizations about leadership that are as relevant today as they were over 200 years ago.

1. Identify a vision that is future-oriented and attainable, and then focus strategies and activities on accomplishing that vision. In whatever endeavor Franklin engaged in, he was a visionary, thinking about what could be done, an effective strategy to achieve the vision, and who to involve in the strategy. When Franklin was envoy to France, his objective was to secure funding and support for the American Revolution. He worked with government officials, but also established personal friendships to facilitate informal relations.

2. Examine all sides of an issue before embarking on a course of action. Even when not agreeing with other perspectives, understanding their positions was an important part of building alliances and formulating plans and strategies in colonial and revolutionary America. For example, Franklin wrote one pamphlet in which three persons, identified as X, Y, and Z, articulated three positions on an issue that divided Philadelphia: the creation of a voluntary militia. While Franklin favored one of the approaches, he included opposing viewpoints, thus leaving the impression that he was open, objective, and unbiased.

3. The key between success and failure often is persistence. Franklin continued to work toward important goals even in the face of opposition and adversity. Throughout his life, he continued to work toward a vision of a dynamic emerging nation. At the time of the Declaration of Independence, about as many residents sided with England as were for

(cont'd on page 10)

North West Angle Dedication

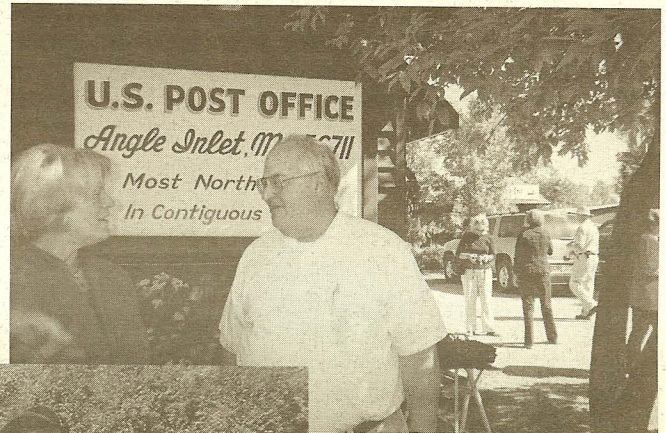
A number of Friends of Franklin joined with residents of Angle Inlet, Minnesota to dedicate a plaque to Benjamin Franklin for his role in securing this ground, the northernmost of the 48 states including the great Mesabi and Vermillion iron ranges, for the United States in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Friend George Waters was instrumental in bringing this to fruition and cultivating a strong interest in

Franklin. A summary of his article, which appeared in the last issue of the Franklin Gazette, has been used by the local tourism industry to highlight this facet of the region's history. He also established a new annual Franklin award (the medal he used in the dedication ceremony and a \$100 cash prize) to a student who excelled in reading, industry, or service, all important elements in Franklin's life. The eight students who

attend the only one room schoolhouse in the state of Minnesota are all eligible for the award and as their teacher, Linda Kastl wrote to Mr. Waters... "The students have already begun to proofread their papers, keep their behavior in check, and sign out a few extra books in hopes of claiming the generous award. It truly is a wonderful motivator!"



Roy Goodman with
committeeman, James
Rasmussen.
Photograph by E. Philip Krider



Phil Krider with the Lt.
Governor of Minnesota,
Carol Molnau.
Photograph by E. Philip Krider



George Waters (aka Franklin)
standing with plaque.
Photograph by E. Philip Krider

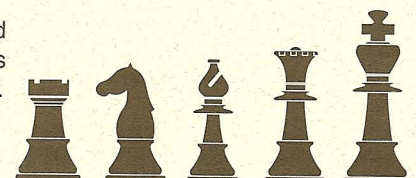
Benjamin Franklin and the Morals of Chess

On September 12, 2006, Dr. John McCrary, Past President and Vice President of the US Chess Federation, and past President of the US Chess Trust, spoke of Franklin's significance to chess in his lecture, "Benjamin Franklin and the Morals of Chess" at the American Philosophical Society's Franklin Hall. Dr. McCrary noted that Franklin was one of the first two persons within the current boundaries of the US who can be identified by name as chess players. He shares that distinction with the Reverend Lewis Rou of New York, with whom he also shares the distinction of being the first two American authors to write about chess. By 1786, Franklin had published an essay, called "The Morals of Chess," which argued that chess strengthens habits of mind and virtue. This essay has been since published in many languages and still appears in modern publications. Dr. McCrary noted similarities between Franklin's points in the "Morals" and analogous points made in his other writings. Franklin, a staunch believer in republican government, felt that such a government would

work best if citizens learned the kinds of habits of prudence, virtue, and civility he described in the "Morals of Chess".

Following Dr. McCrary was Steve Shutt, past Vice President of the US Chess Federation, who discussed modern scholastic chess, which demonstrates that Franklin was right that chess can help teach good habits of thought and behavior to children. Then Steven Shutt, aided by his students, gave an entertaining demonstration of how the "Morals" might be applied to modern forms of misconduct sometimes found in players and spectators.

Franklin was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 1999.



James Madison and the Preservation of Franklin's Legacy: An Historical Mystery Solved

by Kate Ohno



Nearly thirty years after Franklin's death James Madison played an important, although until now, unacknowledged role in preserving Franklin's words for future generations of Americans. This contribution might have otherwise gone unnoticed by the editors of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* except for a recent query from David Mattern, editor-in-chief of our sister project, *The Papers of James Madison*. David sent me a January, 1818, letter that Madison had directed to Franklin's grandson Richard Bache. Bache was planning a new publication, a newspaper that was to bear the same name as this publication. This first *Franklin Gazette* began publication in February, 1818, and Bache had sent the newly retired former president a prospectus and invitation to subscribe. Madison sent his subscription to Bache, as well as a mysterious enclosure. "In assorting some old pamphlets I met with a Magazine containing a re publication from an English Newspaper of a letter to its Editor, in a style & with an object which seem strongly to denote the pen of Dr. Franklin. The name on the outside page, is not unlike his handwriting; but that circumstance would be no evidence of the fact [that the essay was by Franklin]. I have not at hand the means of deciding whether the Doctor was in England at the date of the letter; nor whether, if the letter was his, it may not be among his printed writings. I inclose the Magazine that you may ascertain these points. If the letter be from the conjectured pen, & has never been printed [in the United States], it certainly deserves to be so...."

David asked the editors of *The Franklin Papers* to identify the essay that Madison sent to Bache. And what was its subject, that Madison thought it so crucial to republish it all those

years after Franklin's death? Of course Franklin wrote many articles published in the British press, and any number of them were later reprinted. At first we scratched our heads and came up empty, but then David sent another clue: Bache's April 10, 1818 response to Madison's letter. "DEAR SIR, I have returned you the pamphlet which you had the goodness to send me, & for which I am much indebted to you; I hope it will arrive safe. The writing on the title page, is either that of my Father or Dr Franklin, they wrote very much alike, and it is rather too much defaced to decide. The piece, I have no doubt, was written by my Grand Father, it has given me much pleasure to reprint it, which has been increased, by the recollection of the source from which it came to my hands..." This is just the sort of puzzle relished by historians; identifying handwriting, chasing down the origin of an anonymous piece of writing. Luckily, the Yale University Library owns some issues of Bache's *Franklin Gazette* from the first months of its publication. Skimming these newspapers led to the kind of Eureka moment so highly prized, but so rarely experienced, by editors. In the April 8, 1818 issue was Bache's introduction to Franklin's article from the September, 1759 *New American Magazine*: "We are indebted to the kindness of a distinguished and valuable friend [Madison], for the following, who thinks it bears internal evidence of being from the pen of Dr. Franklin. He was in England at that period, and we know no other person who possessed similar sentiments, with the willingness to express them in the same boldness of style. We, however, can never regret being the means of saving from oblivion, so *genuine* a proof of national feeling, be its author whom it may."

Although Bache felt sure the article was written by Franklin, he could not be absolutely sure. Later scholars of Franklin, including Paul Leicester Ford and Verner Crane, agreed with him, without knowing that it was Madison who first recognized the origin of the essay. So what was this piece that Madison was so passionate about preserving and linking to Franklin's name? The long article, signed "A New Englandman," was a defense of Americans. It was first published as a letter to the printer of the *London Chronicle*, and it was printed in the May 10-12, 1759 issue. The long and spirited piece was written to rebut an "Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in General Abercrombie's army..." that had been printed in the same news paper in the December 21-23, 1758 issue. The latter piece had attacked the colonists on a number of different points, alleging, among other things, widespread religious intolerance, a boorish demeanor, and an incompetent soldiery. The bold rebuttal bears all the hallmarks of Franklin's style, and the editors of *The Franklin Papers* are grateful to the editors of the James Madison retirement series for pointing out that Madison was the first to identify the author of the piece, and to take steps to ensure that the essay was preserved as part of the Franklin canon.

You can read Franklin's lively defense of his fellow countrymen in vol. 8, pp. 340-56 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, or you can access it on line at <http://www.franklinpapers.org>. Open the search feature and type "Printer of the Chronicle" into the box on the lower left side of the screen. The first result, dated May 9, 1759, is the essay in question.

Franklin Abroad: Benjamin Franklin and France, Paris and the French

by Daniel Jouve

*Editor's note: This essay was originally published in **France Etats-Unis: le journal des relations franco-américaines**, no. 36 (March-May, 2006). It was translated for the **Franklin Gazette** by Claude-Anne Lopez.*

Born in Boston three hundred years ago, Benjamin grew up there and studied for one year at the Boston Latin School where he may have started learning French. Eventually he knew not only how to read French but also how to joke and turn out *mots d'esprit* in our language.

When he arrived in France in December 1776, as the representative of the American insurgents, he already had a pretty good knowledge of our country from having visited it in 1767 and 1769. Furthermore, he had been elected a member of the Academie des Sciences in 1772 and, given the eighteenth century's admiration for scientists, he was known as "Doctor Franklin," the inventor of the lightning rod.

After having received Julien de Bonvouloir, the first secret emissary of Louis XVI and his Foreign Minister Vergennes, at Carpenter's Hall (Philadelphia), Franklin was entrusted by Congress with a diplomatic mission.

When he sailed for France in October 1776, the Royal Navy, patrolling the sea lanes, was eager to capture him. He finally arrived when his ship slipped into the port of Auray in southern Brittany. Fearing to take the most direct route, he traveled south to Nantes.

His trip from Nantes to Paris would be a triumph. Traveling in a light carriage, the septuagenarian would be greeted along the way by a continuous line of French men and women come to see "Docteur Franklin" pass by.

Let us pick up the high points of his stay in Paris:

—On February 6, 1778, at no. 4, Place de la Concorde, along with his fellow delegates Silas Deane and Arthur Lee, he would sign the treaty by which Louis XVI, King of France, was the first in the world to recognize the independence of the United States.

—At no. 56, Rue Jacob, on September 3, 1783, along with John Adams and John Jay, he would sign the treaty by which the King of England would recognize the independence of his thirteen American colonies, after a war in which 2,500 French combatants lost their lives.

—Franklin's presence is strongly felt in the former village of Passy (now the 16th arrondissement of Paris), where he settled in February, 1777. He lived at the corner of the Rue Scheffer and the Rue Raynouard. The Hotel de Valentinois, the residence of Monsieur and Madame Chaumont, is where he received many visitors and admirers. It was also on this spot that he installed the first lightning rod in continental Europe, as well as creating a workshop in which he resumed his work as a printer and an author. In that space he would print the first American passports.

—Let us follow him all along the Rue Raynouard up to the Rue Franklin. At the end of that street, let us greet the statue of that great sage overlooking the *Champ de Mars*. That is the spot where, in 1790, the star-filled flag flew for the first time outside of the United States.

—We shall find him too at the *Monnaie* (the Mint), whose director was Condorcet. The wife of that famous man—made a "citizen of New Haven" by the Americans—was Sophie de Grouchy. That brilliant muse kept a salon where she and her husband entertained not only Franklin, but also Lafayette, Beaumarchais, Jefferson, and Thomas Paine.

Finally, let us pay our respects to 16 Place Vendôme, where, upon the King's request, Franklin the scientist was to enquire into the "cures" performed by the "Magnestiser" Mesmer.

The two French experts joined with Franklin in that inquiry were the celebrated chemist Lavoisier and Bailly, who would become the first mayor of Paris during the French Revolution. Dr. Franklin also wrote an official account of the balloon ascent of Montgolfier

from the Bois de Boulogne.

While visiting Voltaire who had returned from Fernay (Switzerland), Franklin introduced his grandson, William Temple. Voltaire placed his hand on the young man's head and pronounced a brief blessing: "God and Liberty."

The French were madly in love with Franklin. Ladies wore a style of dress dubbed "Lightning Rod" in honor of the inventor of the device.

All through Paris one could see hats, gloves, tobacco pouches "B la Benjamin Franklin."

The Parisians bemoaned his departure in 1785, and at his death in 1790, not only did the *Assemblée Constituante* interrupt its debates to express sadness, but a huge crowd that extended from the Rue du Louvre to the *Halle aux Bleds* (the grain market, today the *Bourse du Commerce*), paid homage to him. Five thousand people gathered there to listen to tributes offered by the representatives of the King, the City of Paris, and the printers' guild.

Let us end with Versailles where Benjamin Franklin had dared to appear at Court without a wig and where Louis XVI welcomed a new American minister by saying: "So you are the man who replaces Dr. Franklin...", to which Jefferson replied: "Majesty, nobody can replace Dr. Franklin. I am only his successor!"

And do not miss the Rue Franklin that joins the Rue Vergennes to reach the Avenue de Paris!

To conclude, one cannot do better than to quote Mirabeau who honored the Doctor's memory at the Assembly with the following words:

"Benjamin Franklin, the genius who liberated America and poured torrents of light over Europe. He was the sage claimed by two worlds."

Friend Daniel Jouve of Paris received his MBA at Harvard. An amateur historian, he is passionately interested in American independence. In collaboration with his wife, Alice Higgins Jouve, —a Bostonian herself and an alumna of the Boston Latin School—he wrote *Paris, Birthplace of the USA* (Paris: Gründ).

In His Own Words:

"My Dear Young Friend"

A Sneak Preview of Volume 38 of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin Exclusively for Readers of the Franklin Gazette

Whenever a new volume of the modern comprehensive edition of Franklin's writings and correspondence appears we select and publish a document to give readers a taste of what was going on in Franklin's world during the period covered by that particular addition to the series. In the case of Volume 38, covering August 16, 1782 through January 20, 1783, Franklin's time was mostly taken up with the negotiations for peace. He had been joined in Paris by John Jay during the summer of 1782, and in late summer he and Jay were trying to move the process forward. But by the end of August Franklin was gravely ill, so ill in fact, that he thought he might die, and he enlisted Jay to help draft a will. Franklin, as we know, did not die. He survived to be joined in the peace commission by John Adams, who arrived in Paris in late October. Adams was suspicious of Franklin and the French Court, and Franklin, still suffering the effects of his recent sickness, was confronted with the necessity of winning Adams' trust. Keeping the pressure on the British and speaking with a unified voice must have taxed all three Americans. They succeeded in their goal, signing a preliminary treaty with England in late November. There was no let up for Franklin, however. The French were offended. They had known nothing of the agreement with the British until after the fact, despite Congressional instructions to the American Commissioners that their closest ally should be apprised of the status of the talks. This was a very inauspicious moment for French displeasure, for Franklin had been instructed by Congress to request a huge loan from the French government. French coffers were empty, and they had already made large gifts and loans to the Americans, as well as supplying troops and naval support for the war

effort. Franklin had opened discussions on the loan before the preliminary treaty was signed, but with funds desperately needed, he was forced to approach the French foreign minister for an advance on the loan only a short time after the treaty with the British was concluded. He finally managed to secure a sum in specie that could be sent back to the U.S. with the news of the treaty, and the promise that the balance of the loan would be available in 1783. The preliminary treaty, however, would not go into effect until France reached a peace agreement with the British. For some while in December and January this seemed impossible. It was during this period, only a few days before Franklin was to celebrate his 78th birthday, that he wrote a pair of private letters, one to his grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, and the other to the grandson of one of his best friends, Samuel Cooper Johonnot. Both boys were named for their grandfathers, and were at boarding school in Geneva. Benny, now thirteen, had accompanied his grandfather and older cousin to France at the tender age of seven; he was nine when he was sent to Geneva. Sammy was a year younger than Benny; he had been escorted to France by his father, who had left the boy in Franklin's care. At the time that Franklin wrote to his grandson they had not seen each other for four years, though Franklin tried during their separation to offer guidance, as he does in the letter below. Franklin's letter to Benny has not been published in any of the earlier editions of his works. The recipient's copy is in the collection of Williams College.

Passy, Jany. 7. 1783.

My dear Child,

I received some time since, and sent to your Father, the Samples you had sent to me of your Drawing,

particularly the Copy of the Print of your Grand Father [Franklin], which appear'd to be well done.

I have also just now receiv'd your Letter written to wish me a happy New Year; but you should nevertheless have put a Date to it, and to all your Letters. It was accompanied with several to your other Friends, all without Dates. I shall forward them by the first Opportunity.

You should also, when you write, acknowledge the Receipt of Letters that have come to your Hands, mentioning their Dates. I sent you some time ago a Parcel containing several English Books, and I have not yet heard that you receiv'd them.

I am glad to learn that you have obtain'd another Prize. Present my best Respects to Madam Cramer, & to Mr & Made. Marignac [Benny's tutor]. I am ever, Your affectionate Grandfather

B Franklin

~
As to his young friend Sammy Johonnot, Franklin tried to share with him his recipe for a wise and happy life. A copy of this letter, written on the same day as the one to Benny, was retained among Franklin's papers, and is now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

~
My dear young Friend

I received your kind good Wishes of a Number of happy Years for me. I have already enjoy'd and consum'd nearly the whole of those allotted me, being now within a few Days of my 78th [birthday].-- You have a great many before you; and their being happy or otherwise will depend much on your own Conduct. If by diligent Study now, you improve your Mind, and practice carefully hereafter the Prompts of Religion and Virtue, you will have in your favour the Promise respecting the Life that now is, as well as that which is to come. You will possess true

Wisdom, which is nearly allied to Happiness; Length of Days are in her right hand, and in her left hand Riches & Honours; all her Ways are Ways of Pleasantness, and all her Paths are Peace!

I am glad to hear that you are intitled to a Prize. It will be pleasing News to your Friends in New England, that you

have behav'd so as to deserve it. I pray God bless you, and render you a Comfort to them and an Honour to your Country. I am, Your affectionate Friend
B Franklin

For more about the interesting relationship between Franklin and the Cooper family, see Claude-Anne

Lopez' "A Story of Grandfathers, Fathers, and Sons," *Yale University Library Gazette*, liii (1979), 177-95.



Good Reads

James N. Green and Peter Stallybrass, *Benjamin Franklin: Writer and Printer* (Oak Knoll Press, 2006). Focuses on Franklin's career between his apprenticeship and his retirement in 1748. Over 150 color illustrations of Franklin's books, booklets, and ephemera are included in this book co-published by the Library Company of Philadelphia and the British Library.

Richard Ryerson et al., eds., *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: a Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2006). This new compendium on one of the most important periods of Franklin's life was prepared under the direction of the former editor-in-chief of the Adams Papers.

Edwin Wolf, 2nd, and Kevin J. Hayes, *The Library of Benjamin Franklin* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society and the Library Company of Philadelphia, 2006). The late Edwin Wolf, Librarian at the Library Company, spent years compiling a list of books read or owned by Franklin. One of the most exciting moments in his research was when he cracked the code of Franklin's own classification system: the shelf marks placed on his books that indicated their position in his home library. These unique marks, often hidden under the bookplates of later owners or papered over when the volumes were rebound, are proof positive that a book came from the great man's library. Professor Kevin Hayes of the University of Central Oklahoma has carried on Wolf's work, producing a bibliography of thousands of volumes, approximately half of which have been located. This work opens a new way for historians to study the sources which influenced Franklin's thought.

Antiques Magazine, August, 2006 is devoted to the Library Company of Philadelphia, one of the organizations founded by Franklin. This issue

commemorates the 275th anniversary of that founding, and includes an article on the organization's history.

"In Focus: Benjamin Franklin Papers, Collection in the Spotlight during Tercentennial Celebrations," *Yale Bulletin & Calendar*, Sept. 15, 2006. Read it on line at: <http://www.yale.edu/opa/yb&c>.

An Account of Mr. Benjamin Franklin's Treatise, Lately Published, Intituled, Experiments and Observations on Electricity, Made at Philadelphia in America; By Wm. Watson, F. R. S. Read about Franklin's experiments with electricity in the new electronic archives of the Royal Society. See: www.pubs.royal-soc.ac.uk/archive.

For French Readers of the Gazette:

Claude-Anne Lopez, "Le choix de Franklin pour un service de table." *Passion Faïence*, no. 30 (June, 2006), 14-17.

Claude-Anne Lopez, "Livraison d'un service de faïence de Montereau a Benjamin Franklin en juin 1780," *Passion Faïence*, no. 31 (September, 2006), 8-12

Forthcoming

Ellen R. Cohn, et al., eds., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Volume 38 (New Haven: Yale University Press, November, 2006). Covering August 16, 1782-January 20, 1783, this addition to Yale's comprehensive edition of Franklin's writings and correspondence, the 38th volume of a projected 47, picks up the story of the negotiations to end the Revolutionary War begun in volume 37. It includes the signing of the preliminary peace treaty by the American Peace Commissioners and their British counterparts, and concludes with the general treaty of January 20, 1783 with which hostilities ceased. The period leading up to the signing of the Definitive Treaty will be addressed in the forthcoming volumes 39 and 40.

Edmund S. Morgan, ed., *Not Your Usual Founding Father: Selected Readings from Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven: Yale University Press, October, 2006). Sean Wilentz says "Of all the truly great American historians, Edmund S. Morgan comes closest to capturing the spirit of Benjamin Franklin's prose in his own work: enlightening, plain, witty, democratic, cosmopolitan, and crafty in the best sense of the word. Here he arranges an expert's tour through Franklin's writings, offering readers a continual Christmas."

Edmund S. Morgan, "Object Lesson," *Yale Alumni Magazine*, Nov.-Dec., 2006. In each issue of the magazine, in the Arts and Culture section, an object from the University's widely varied collections is selected, and a faculty member is tapped to write about it. In the forthcoming number, Ed Morgan writes about Franklin's Epitaph: "The Body of B. Franklin, Printer; Like the Cover of an old Book, Its Contents torn out, And stript of its Lettering and Gilding, Lies here, Food for Worms. But the Work shall not be wholly lost: for it will, as he believ'd, appear once more, In a new & more perfect Edition, Corrected and amended By the Author."

Paul Pasles, *Benjamin Franklin's Numbers: An Unsung Mathematical Odyssey* (Princeton University Press). As a Friend of Franklin, the author has contributed several articles to this publication; they have been especially helpful in making Franklin's work in mathematics intelligible to non-specialists. His new book, published in hard cover, with plenty of illustrations, fills a significant gap in Franklin scholarship.

For Children

Ben Franklin's Fame, part of the Blast to the Past series, is scheduled for publication by Simon & Schuster, and is a new historic fiction children's book.

FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Franklin Tourism:

Ellen's Triumph in Paris: When members of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission went to Paris over the July 4th holiday to kick off the French celebration of Franklin's 300th birthday, they invited Ellen R. Cohn, Editor-in-Chief of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* to accompany them, and to give the keynote address at a symposium. Ellen's talk, about Franklin's life in France during the American Revolution, was delivered in the *salle dorée*, the glorious private assembly hall of the Banque de France. Her lively exposition received high praise and warm applause from her audience.

Visiting New York City this fall?

You might want to mark the 330th anniversary of Franklin's attempt to negotiate an early end to the Revolutionary War at the very site of his Sept. 11, 1776 meeting with Admiral Richard Howe, the British navy's commander in America. Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge rowed out from New Jersey to Staten Island to accept Howe's invitation for peace talks. They met at a 2-story stone manor house on the south shore of the island, now known as the **Conference House**. Howe is said to have walked to the water's edge to greet the American negotiators, but this cordial reception failed to make British terms for reconciliation acceptable, and the war continued despite Franklin's reassurance that "the Conversation might be held as amongst friends." The old house still stands facing Raritan Bay, and is open for tours Friday through Sunday from 1 to 4 PM until mid-December. It is located at 7455 Hylan Boulevard, www.theconferencehouse.org. Henry Strachey, who would not meet Franklin again until 1782, when he once again tussled with the American over negotiations to end the war, kept minutes of the meeting. You can read them in Vol. 22 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, pp. 598-605 or on line: www.franklinpapers.org (search under Henry Strachey, then click on Sept. 11, 1776).

In Azerbaijan the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth is being celebrated by an exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences in Baku. It opens in October.

Restoring the "Franklin Marker": In many towns along the Boston Post Road, the ancient route between Boston and New York, communities boast of mile markers set in place by Benjamin Franklin. If Franklin erected each of these markers himself, he would have had little time to do anything else. Nevertheless, in this, his 300th birthday year, his legacy as Postmaster was commemorated in Fairfield, Conn., by the clearing of the site around what is locally known as "the Franklin Marker". Barbara Turcy, the preservation chairman of the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapter of the DAR led the project. The marker was inscribed with the number of miles to Boston, as the cost of mail was dependent on the number of miles letters were carried.

Benjamin Franklin Performances:

In Missouri: Whit Reichert of St. Louis is your man. He played Franklin in April at the Missouri History Museum in a program called "Flying High with Benjamin Franklin". Reichert flew a kite outside the museum, commemorating one of Franklin's best known experiments. He has performed in a one-man show on Franklin, and played him at the Arrow Rock, Missouri, Lyceum's production of 1776 this past summer.

In Colorado: The first-person living history celebration of Franklin in Denver was brought to life in May by Christopher Lowell in a performance sponsored by the Colorado Humanities. One of the American Spirit Series, his performance also featured kites, this time in the form of "the sky's the limit" kite auction to raise money for the Young Chautauqua program.

In Connecticut: "Ben Franklin and Constitution Day," Sept. 18, at Yale University. Benjamin Franklin (played by Yale's Sean Maher) seen handing out copies of the U.S. Constitution. The program also included readings drawn from Franklin's writings selected by the staff of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* and sections of the Constitution chosen by Constitutional scholar Professor Akhil Amar. Among the readers were Professors Joanne B. Freeman and Jonathan Holloway, and Ellen Cohn, editor-in-chief of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. Copies of the exhibit catalogue, *Benjamin*

Franklin: In Search of a Better World were given away.

Since it was first published 40 years ago, *Mon Cher Papa: Franklin and the Ladies of Paris* by Friend Claude-Anne Lopez has won prizes and rave reviews. In October a staged reading of the new play inspired by her book will be held in New Haven. See the Calendar for details.

Franklin's Principles For Our Time:

Inspired by Franklin's life and writings, George Rogers is working on a book project based on what he considers the philosopher's guiding principles. Rogers' book is called *The Forgotten Virtue*, and it deals with the virtue of self-denial. Rogers, the author who in an earlier work completed Franklin's "Art of Virtue," laments the tendency to seek happiness through self-gratification.

Kites on the Main Line: In a tercentenary tribute to Benjamin Franklin the Main Line Arts Center unleashed a new public art project this spring: *Kites: Art Takes Flight*. Artists were asked to use their imagination in creating these works of art, as high as 12 feet, using metal, fabric, stained glass and other materials that would withstand the elements. More than 40 kites can be seen from Bala Cynwyd to Wayne or on-line at <http://www.mainlineart.org/kites/>. Kites will remain in-situ until mid-October.

Franklin's Music on CD

"Music in the Life of Benjamin Franklin," a new compact disc published by the Colonial Music Institute has just been released featuring new Franklin related pieces performed by Friends Julianne Baird, and David and Ginger Hildebrand with contributions from Carolyn Surrick (viola da gamba), Karen Flint (fortepiano), Thomas Bloch (glass armonica, courtesy of Naxos records), and Laura Hildebrand, David & Ginger's daughter (violin). The 23 songs are recorded on reproductions of period instruments including Baroque guitar, Baroque violin, fortepiano, and the hammered dulcimer. A companion book, which includes an essay on Franklin and music, with full scholarly apparatus is scheduled for publication shortly. For more information visit www.colonial-music.org or email the Hildebrands at info@colonialmusic.org

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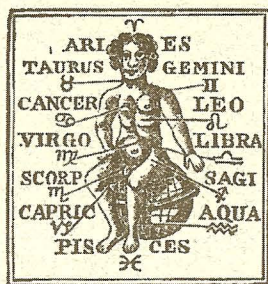
The Memoirs of Benjamin Franklin

Commonly known as *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, this limited edition is being published by the Arion Press in celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of Franklin's birth. The book will be the first use of an historic American typeface, shown here, as recreated by the press in digital form and named Aitken in honor of Robert Aitken, the famous printer of the American Revolution, and his daughter Jane. The original metal type, known simply as Roman No. 1, was cut and cast in Philadelphia by the Binny & Ronaldson typefoundry about 1800 and was used by Jane Aitken for the printing of the first American translation of the Bible, by Charles Thomson, in 1808. The book is 192 pages in length and is bound in full brown goatskin with titling in gold. The paper is Somerset Book, an English mouldmade paper, of all-cotton fiber. The edition is limited to four hundred numbered copies for sale. Due spring, 2006. To receive a prospectus or reserve a copy, please contact:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19, 2006

"The Franklin Extravaganza: What We Have Wrought" Pennsylvania Historical Association's Annual Meeting's plenary session. To be held at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia. The panel includes Cathy Matson, University of Delaware, Michael Zuckerman and Richard Beeman of Penn, Rosalind Remer of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, and David Waldstreicher of Temple University. For registration information, see <http://www.pa-history.org/meetings.htm>.

October 20, 2006

Franklin in Love: a staged reading of Patrick Huguenin's new play inspired by Friend Claude-Anne Lopez' *Mon Cher Papa: Franklin and the Ladies of Paris*. 3-6 PM, at Yale University's Whitney Humanities Center, 53 Wall St., New Haven, Conn. The reading will be preceded by remarks by Ellen R. Cohn and Claude-Anne Lopez.

October 25, 2006

"Music in the Life of Benjamin Franklin: A 300th Birthday Concert" of 18th-century music by David K. Hildebrand, Ph.D., 7:30 p.m. at Brittingham's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Telephone is 610-828-7351. Event is free and open to the public. Instruments to be used are: Baroque Guitar (copied after Voboam, c. 1695), English Guitar (copied after 2 models, both c. 1770), English

flute (Oberlander, copy by Roessler), and a Harpsichord (English spinet, copied after Thomas Hitchcock, c. 1720). John A. Nagy, Program Director, ARRTOP.

October 26- November 5, 2006

Friends of Franklin trip to London and Paris.

December 11-December 16, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin, Geophysicist: A Tercentenary Update" is the theme of a special session at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

December 12, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin: Scientist, Humanist," lecture by Dr. Richard L. Rosen at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia. Tours of the Masonic Temple's Library and Museum from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania and the Friends of Franklin.

Ongoing:

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," will open in Houston at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Oct. 13, and will later travel to Denver, Atlanta and Paris, closing at the end of March, 2008.

Through September 23, 2006

Benjamin Franklin : A How-to-Guide explores Franklin's role in The Circulation of Knowledge, Houghton Library, Edison & Newman Room, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Call 617-495-2442 or see <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/calendar/arts.html> for more information. See also related exhibit, Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments.

Through November, 2006

Exhibit "Ben & Me: Keeping an American Hero's Legacy Alive Today" National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 10-5 daily <http://www.libertymuseum.org>

Through December 1, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin and the Art of the Deal" at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital (Historic Library, 800 Spruce St., Philadelphia). On Franklin's idea for the

matching fund drive.

Through December 15, 2006

"Shaping Franklin" Exhibit at Stenton, former home of Franklin's friend James Logan, 4601 N. 18th St., Philadelphia. Have tea, tour Stenton and the exhibit Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4 PM. Fees: Adults \$5, Students and Seniors \$4. More information: <http://www.stenton.org/>

Through Dec. 16, 2006

"Franklin and the Book," exhibit at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Through December 22, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin: A How-To Guide" featuring scientific instruments, rare books, manuscripts and natural history specimens in commemoration of Franklin's 300th birthday. Harvard University, Science Center 251, 1 Oxford St. Free and open to the public.

Through December 31, 2006

"The Princess and the Patriot: Ekaterina Dashkova, Benjamin Franklin and the Age of Enlightenment" will be on view in Philosophical Hall, 104 S. Fifth Street, Philadelphia. Admission is free.

Through December 31, 2006

"Images of Benjamin Franklin: As Seen By Himself and Others" at New York University (the Mamdouha Bobst Gallery, Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY). An exhibit from Friend Stuart Karu's collection of Franklinitiana.

Through January 1, 2007

"Franklin... He's Electric!" and **"The Curiosity Show."** Both shows are at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. The latter, shown daily, reenacts some of Franklin's famous experiments. Check for show times.

Through January 17, 2007

"Ben Franklin at the New York Historical Society." Exhibit that features paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles and other artifacts interpreting Franklin's life. For more information: <http://www.nyhistory.org/programs.html>.

(cont'd from page 2)

independence. Members of the Continental Congress worked toward the adoption of the Declaration of Independence even when others opposed them.

4. Direct and specific instructions facilitate communication in directing others to do something. A letter from Franklin to a nephew who had just been appointed postmaster clearly and succinctly articulated the expectations for his new job and indicated that Franklin would be very disappointed in anything less.

5. Collaborate with others to secure the goal. The axiom, "It takes a village to raise a

child" applied to writing the Declaration of Independence and it applies to our actions today. Delegates not only met with other delegates but often returned to their respective states to network and to seek advice and counsel from colleagues. Franklin was a master net-worker as he developed consensus.

6. Assume responsibility for actions and results. Leaders in the American Revolution had much to lose—their properties and positions, perhaps even their lives, but they were true to their vision of a free, united country. This was certainly true for Franklin, who risked family ties and personal fortune in the revolutionary struggle.

7. Learn from experiences and continued education. Some of the men who led the American Revolution, like Franklin and Washington, had little formal education. But all were keen observers, voracious readers, and learned from their experiences.

The following quotation in the Portrait Gallery in the Second National Bank is as relevant today for those who continue to learn: *"Books contained wonderful ideas, and experiences provided an excellent education for those receptive to its lessons."* Lifelong learning has become even more vital today as change and innovation occur more rapidly than ever before. Each of us needs to be a lifelong learner, and receptive to the lessons of our experiences.

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